

Author: Tom Beaver
Category: Beaver Memos
Date: February 18, 2016

John E. Fetzer's Spiritual Journey in a Nutshell (February 18, 2016)

John E. Fetzer was an internationally respected businessman (awarded the broadcasting industry's highest award in 1969, the National Association of Broadcaster's Distinguished Service Award) and Major League Baseball owner (awarded the Baseball Commissioner's Executive Award for Excellence in Baseball in 1984). However, most all of his business cohorts never knew about John's spiritual interests. John's spiritual journey was of paramount interest to him for much of his life, but was kept largely private by him.

There was a period in the mid-to late 1970s when John 'went public' to some extent. In 1974 he gave an interview to *Psychic Magazine* where he attributed his good business decisions to using his intuition. In 1975 he had some of the Detroit Tigers try Transcendental Meditation, which was picked up by the press. In 1980 he gave an interview to *Detroit Monthly Magazine* that touched on Buddhism, UFOs, Edgar Mitchell and IONS, metaphysics and psychic research, biofeedback, "America's Agony," and meditation. In 1980 he gave an interview to Kalamazoo's *Encore Magazine* where he talked about his association with Ed Mitchell and IONS. And as late as 1988, he gave an interview with *New Realities Magazine* that touched on the influence of Baird Spaulding's *Masters of the Far East*, as well as his interest in parapsychology, including meeting with Dr. J.B. Rhine, and his association with Judy Skutch-Whitson and *A Course in Miracles*.

However, by the later 1980s John for the most part let the mission of The Fetzer Foundation/Institute be his 'public face' as far as his philosophical and spiritual interests were concerned.

Now, 20-plus years after John's death, the extent to which the details of his spiritual journey are made public is up to Trustee discretion. However, I believe the details of John's journey are deeply informative to the Trustees themselves, in understanding the source and the underpinnings of John's philosophy and spiritual legacy.